

Silent Pigeons Replace Radio

Husky Birds Are Helping Fight Axis Submarines in Atlantic Waters.

WASHINGTON—Pigeons are helping to fight Axis submarines off the coasts of North and South America. The husky little birds, which can fly hundreds of miles a day, also are saving lives and winning decorations.

Despite the mechanization of modern war—in fact, because of it—pigeons are again gaining prominence in the war picture.

Radio for a time threatened to push them aside. Walkie-talkies took their place for short-distance communications. Short-wave radio handled messages over longer distances more speedily.

But there was a hitch or two. For one thing radios could go out of order and repairs couldn't be made on the spot.

More important, though, was the fact that the enemy always could pick up radio signals. Maybe he couldn't read the codes, but he could tell a message was being sent.

Pigeon Heads for Home

That is a important in anti-submarine work. A plane flying high over the sea can spot a sub well beneath the surface. But the pilot isn't always ready to dive bombs. Sometimes he has to call for help; has already used his bombs. When he radioed the sub's location to his base, the sub heard his signals and headed away—fast.

Now, when a sub is sighted, the pilot doesn't have to open his radio key. Instead he opens a hatch and releases a pigeon. The bird heads for home at better than 40 miles an hour—some with favorable winds have done close to 100—and delivers the information on latitude and longitude to the base. Other planes arrive without radio silence being broken. They'll get the sub.

Just how many times pigeons have played a part in riding the seas of another underwater raider can't be disclosed. Air force men merely smile—"they're doing their work."

They're doing a lot more than that, the subs, too. Under the recently established program to use pigeons in the air forces, pigeons are working in the ferry command, the transport command, with aerial troop transports, with paratroopers, and in the big bombers that are smashing at Axis submarines. For many of the pigeons they fly with the fighter pilots.

Take Place of Radio

In all those jobs their principal duty still is substitution for radio. In event of radio failure or under conditions when radio silence must be maintained in the event a plane is forced down at sea or in the wilderness. They can travel an average of 60 miles a day over the sea, and when they tire they'll go to the nearest ship and land in the rigging. A message attached to the leg of a pigeon would bear the latitude and longitude of the disabled plane and help can be dispatched.

"If Captain Rickenbacker had had pigeons and had released them when they had landed on that ship and rescue parties would have reached Rickenbacker in possibly a couple of days," said Capt. Thomas MacClure, who is directing the pigeon program for the air force.

Thousands of the birds already are in service outside the United States, he said, before they are released. An airplane flies we expect to have these birds.

Kleberg Gets Old Shoes He Gave Away Years Ago

WASHINGTON—Representative Kleberg, Democrat of Texas, part owner of King Ranch, was astonished when he opened a box and recognized a pair of shoes which he had worn nearly six years and had given away four years ago to one of his Mexican ranch hands. It all grew out of the shoe rationing order.

Enclosed in Spanish, a note accompanying the shoes said the sender had noticed in the newspapers that Mr. Kleberg was wearing the same shoes he had bought four years ago, at the time he gave up the shoe rationing order.

Unable to write, Flores, 60, a year-old boy, dictated to another ranch hand, and signed with an X, this message:

"I see where you don't have but one pair of shoes, so I am sending you good shoes for the pair which you gave me a few years back."

"Sorry, but we are short of shoes here at the ranch. These shoes will help the situation and that is why we are well."

'Twas Chilly Argument In Small World 2 Ways

KANSAS CITY—Dr. Logan Clemmings had a large house and much fuel oil.

It's really a small world, after all, he learned when he asked the fuel-rationing unit for more.

It seems the fuel-rationing officer with whom he'd argued recently for possession of a fuel-oil card was Eugene L. Logan, chairman of the fuel-oil unit.

He still hopes to get some oil.

New Gun Deadly Against Tanks

'Bazooka' Makes Lone Yank Master in Foe Attack Upon His Machine.

WASHINGTON—A deadly new anti-tank gun disclosed by the war department makes a lone foot soldier "master of any tank which may attack him," the army's chief of ordnance declared.

The new weapon—dubbed the "Bazooka" by soldiers—was described by Maj. Gen. L. H. Campbell Jr., the ordnance chief, as a "rocket gun." He said the rocket is "built on the Fourth of July principle." A soldier inserts the rocket in the gun, which is open at both ends, and sets it off.

From there on, he said, its operation is secret.

The war department called the weapon "revolutionary in design" and asserted its projectile will penetrate armor, drive through brick and rock walls, shatter bridge girders, and "perform other seeming miracles."

How Tank Surrendered

Campbell told of one occasion recently in North Africa when an American soldier fired a "bazooka" at six enemy tanks. The shell missed the tanks, but it demolished the turret of a broad and butter-plated tank. It isn't that large, for the bazooka is fired by a single man who holds it up to his shoulder, aims, and pulls the trigger, usually after it has been loaded by another man. It is the explosive and penetrating power of the projectile that makes the difference.

Campbell said the new weapon, "carried in the hands of a soldier, can destroy any enemy tank on the battlefield today. This weapon has been successfully used by our forces in Africa to destroy fortifications and tanks. It is so simple and yet so powerful that any foot soldier using it can stand his ground with the certainty of any tank which may attack him."

Soldier and his 'Bazooka.' Campbell, in an address at a meeting of the Cincinnati post of the army ordnance association, continued:

"During recent operations in Africa, a small but strong force gave the enemy trouble to the Americans. One American soldier detached himself from the landing party, walked alone and with one shot from his gun effected the surrender of the tank. That will be known as the story of one American soldier and his bazooka."

Just how far the gun has been spread over the globe war frontiers was not disclosed.

The new weapon is not considered a substitute for any existing guns, the war department pointed out, saying that it was designed as a supplemental means of battering tanks, smashing pill boxes, and blowing gaping holes in fortifications. Primarily it is for use at extremely short range.

Raiding groups, tank hunters, reconnaissance troops, and other units—all will make use of the new gun, Campbell also disclosed a new type explosive "more than 100 times greater in its destructive effect than TNT." He gave no further information.

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COLORED DOTS

THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

The public is invited to attend the second meeting of the "Health Victory Club" at the Zion Baptist Church this Sunday evening at 8:30. A special program has been arranged. Rev. J. W. Price will be the guest speaker. Music will be rendered by the Promiss Land Baptist Church Choir.

The Men's Club of the Galilee Baptist Church held its regular meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Johnson on Thursday night June 10. Business of importance was transacted.

The public is invited to attend the anniversary service of the Promiss Land Baptist Church at the Zion Baptist Church at 8 P. M. Rev. H. H. Johnson on Thursday night June 10. Business of importance was transacted.

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Rocks News

Rocks, June 15.—Farmers are busy with their work now. A much needed rain fell here Sunday night.

Thomas Ransom is working at Appomattox.

Miss Annie C. Martin spent a few days last week with her aunt, Mrs. C. S. Ransom.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Frank Ransom spent Saturday night with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Foster, of Darlington Heights.

Doris Wilson called to see Geraldine Ransom Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Vester Garrett and daughter, of Lynchburg are spending a few days with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Garrett, of Pamplin.

Miss Rita Ransom spent Sunday with Ebel Garrett.

J. H. Ransom, who has been in Appomattox for some time, returned to his home here Saturday afternoon. He is slowly improving.

Mrs. Agnes Flesher and son are spending a few days with her father, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ransom and children, of Appomattox. She spent Sunday night with her mother, Mrs. J. H. Ransom.

Claude Ransom, who is not so well, the weekend here with his family.

L. K. Almond called to see J. H. Ransom while Sunday morning.

Stanley Bruce Roach will celebrate his 2nd birthday Wednesday.

Miss Irene Garlinghouse, of Md., spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Garlinghouse.

Winston Ransom spent a week recently in Appomattox.

Mrs. D. R. Inge and son, Claude, came called to see Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roach Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Williams, and children, of Pamplin called to see A. A. Baldwin and wife Sunday afternoon.

The monthly W. M. S. meeting was held last Sunday just after noon. It was splendidly attended. One new member joined, Mrs. Tony Inge, Mrs. Lockie Martin, Mrs. J. A. Garrett, Misses O. R. Ransom and Cassie Baldwin.

Thirteen billion dollars—the sum the Treasury must raise in the Second War Loan drive, is only one sixth of the estimated cost of the war for the fiscal year of 1945.

If you haven't gotten round to buying a Second War Loan Bond, stop and think what it would mean to you if our soldiers hadn't gotten round to the fight.

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News about

Appomattox in the Service

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